

Pee Dee

National Wildlife Refuge

photo: USFWS



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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1965.
- Acres: 8,843.
- Located in Anson and Richmond counties of North Carolina.
- Other management: 15 conservation easements in eight counties.
- Location: the refuge is located 7 miles north of Wadesboro, NC on U.S. Highway 52.

Natural History

- The Pee Dee NWR is part of the Savannah-Santee-Pee Dee Ecosystem.
- The diversity of habitats and management programs supports a broad range of wildlife species, including over 168 birds, 49 amphibians and reptiles, 28 mammals, and 20 fish species.
- The refuge lands are comprised of 3,000 acres of bottomland hardwoods, 1,200 acres of upland pine forest; and 4,300 acres of croplands, old fields, moist soil units and mixed pine hardwoods.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Seven-person staff.
- 25,000 visitors annually.
- Current budget for FY 98 \$227,000 (Base allocation).

Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and migratory song birds.
- Provide habitat and protection for an endangered species, the red-cockaded woodpecker.
- Provide recreation, environmental education and interpretation for the public.
- Dynamic partnering.

Management Tools

- Water management for waterfowl.
- Cooperative farming.
- Prescribed fire.
- Mechanical and chemical control of noxious plants.
- Deer management with public hunting.
- Educational/interpretation.
- Law enforcement.
- Partnerships.

Public Use Opportunities

- Trails.
- Auto tour routes.
- Fishing.
- Observation towers.
- Wildlife observation.
- Photography.
- Hunting.
- Fishing.

Calendar

January-February: waterfowl observation, Christmas Bird Count.

May: Migratory Bird Day.

June: National Fishing Week.

September: mourning dove hunts.

October: National Wildlife Refuge Week, racoon and opossum hunts, archery hunting for deer.

November: muzzleloader hunting for deer, modern gun hunts for deer.

December: squirrel hunting.

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Questions and Answers

When is the Environmental Education Center going to be built at Pee Dee?

When funding is obtained.

Can you hunt and fish on the refuge?

Yes, during the special seasons, with the required permits.

Is the refuge open to the public?

Most definitely, that is the purpose of the refuge, to protect wildlife habitat and to educate the public.

Why don't we see any wild animals?

The animals are wild and live in their natural habitat.

What is a refuge?

Pee Dee is one of over 500 refuges in the United States established for the preservation of wildlife and habitat.